

Monazite. — This is found in considerable quantities. It is extensively mined in Burke, Cleveland, Rutherford, and McDowell counties. From it is obtained thoria, which is used in the manufacture of the Welsbach and other incandescent gas burners.

Talc and Soapstone. — Talc is found in Swain, Moore, Cherokee, and Jackson counties in quantities sufficient to make its mining an important industry. It is used in the manufacture of talcum powder, soap, and paper ; it is also the basis of many lubricants.

Other minerals such as tin, copper, silver, zinc, zircon, graphite, serpentine, asbestos, and others are found in the state. Corundum is found in Macon, Jackson, Clay, and Iredell counties. It is the presence of corundum in emery that gives it its abrasive qualities. For what is emery used ?

Gems. — Many of the precious gems are found in the state, chief among which are the diamond, sapphire (transparent corundum), garnet (three varieties), beryl (three varieties), hiddenite, emeralds, opals, and others.

Building Stones. — In the Piedmont and Mountain sections of North Carolina, the most important mining industry is the quarrying of granite and other stones. These are now being used for building purposes, and for making roads.

Granite is widely distributed. There are, however, only two places where it is quarried in large quantities. Near Mt. Airy, Surry County, and near Salisbury, Rowan County, important plants have been developed. In 1890 there were only 135 car loads shipped from Mt. Airy ; in 1904 there were 1282. The output from these two quarries is extensively used in North Carolina and other states for street curbing, for ballast, in the erection of buildings,